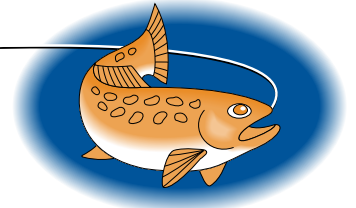


TROUTLINE



www.nvatu.org • The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited • July 2014

JULY MEETING



DETAILS

July 3, 2014
6:45 p.m. Fly tying demonstration
6:45 p.m. Boy Scout Merit Badge group
7:30 p.m. Chapter meeting

WHERE

Flame Room of Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street, SE, Vienna.

GETTING THERE

Chain Bridge Road (123) becomes Maple Avenue in Vienna. Turn south on Center Street. Continue on Center Street past the athletic field on the left; note the fire station on the left at the intersection with Cherry Street. Turn left on Cherry and park behind the building. Go in the side door at the corner of the building and proceed up the stairs to the meeting room.

JULY PROGRAM

Gearage Sale
Bring your stuff and pictures.

JULY CALENDAR

3: Chapter Meeting
5: FWAM smallmouth trip to Rapidan (VA)
10: Board Meeting
26: FWAM trip to Big Spring Creek (Pa)

WHAT'S COMING OFF

July Meeting: Swap Gear and Fishing Stories

This is the time to clear out, straighten and clean up all of your fishing gear. We all collect lots of stuff and sometimes it just plain takes over our lives. The chapter meeting this month presents an opportunity to deal with all of the stuff we may not use in the way of fishing gear. We are hosting a "Gearage Sale" that is open to the public to do just that.

Bring all of your stuff (rods, boots, waders, flies etc.), set it up and put a price on it. Our entertainment will be in the form of big fish videos up on a screen and it will be a chance to just do some good ole fashioned haggling. Please bring your gear, invite friends and neighbors. When it's over, please consider

donating a portion of your proceeds to the chapter. We are always looking for creative ways to pay our bills.

Also, this format allows us more time to swap fish stories and meet new fishing buddies. You've probably noticed that calling the meetings to order is sometimes a challenge as everyone is having a good time just catching up and making new friends. You'll be able to spend time connecting, and planning fishing trips.

Also, bring your favorite pictures on a USB stick and we'll show them on the screen. We'll be showing a picture of Jay's TIC fish (see TIC article) as well.

TU Restoration Projects near Northern Virginia

TU has been hard at work restoring trout habitat with partners in the Blue Ridge and beyond, not too far from TU headquarters in Arlington. For NVATU members not attuned to the nearby on-the-ground work of TU staff, here's a quick rundown of what's going on within 2 or so hours of northern Virginia.

In Virginia, work continues on Spout Run in Clarke County, where a host of partners are working to get this degraded spring creek off of the impaired waters list and make it once again suitable for brook trout. Check out www.spotrunk.org for more info. TU's Thomas Jefferson Chapter wrapped up their Embrace-A-Stream-funded project on Garth Run, a tributary to the Rapidan, in March. DGIF reintroduced brook trout in Garth a few years back. Improvements by TU and DGIF will restore stream habitat decimated by a flood in 1996.

Also this spring, TU and the Piedmont Environmental Council will complete a road-stream crossing inventory on all brook trout-bearing streams on the east slope of Shenandoah National Park. Barriers to brook trout passage are being identified and prioritized for removal. Further afield, a restoration project planned this summer on the Susie Q Farm on Smith Creek will improve trout habitat and fishing there. Both the Spout and Smith projects will need volunteers to help with tree and shrub plantings, as will another project planned on Mossy Creek this summer. Dates and times for volunteer events, once scheduled, will be sent in an email blast.

In Maryland, TU is helping to design another restoration project on Beaver Creek. Once design is complete, TU will shift gears toward fundraising for construction. As with previous Beaver Creek projects,

volunteers will be needed to restore vegetation post-construction. And in Pennsylvania, a quartet of chapters will finish a brook trout habitat enhancement project in the headwaters of Conococheague Creek in Michaux State Forest, adding a dozen rock and log structures to diversify and improve habitat there.

TU chapters have made important contributions to all of this work, in manpower and money. Those contributions provide the match needed to leverage larger government and foundation grants. "With the size of our membership, NVATU is poised to support more conservation work," said NVATU President Jay Lovering. Be on the lookout for opportunities to ramp up NVATU's contributions to nearby conservation projects. In the meantime, feel free to send questions and ideas to Kevin Anderson at kanderson@tu.org

Note: New room for board meetings is NE corner of the building inside Century 21 offices

TRIP 1

Smallmouth: Rappahannock/ Rapidan Rivers

VIRGINIA

When: July 5, 2014
Depart: 8 a.m.
Return: Whenever
Meet: Dick's Fair Lakes parking lot

The first trip will be to the lower Rapidan River, where it joins the Rappahannock. We will either fish the confluence or Elly's Ford. The confluence will require hiking about a mile. If some members prefer not to hike we can split the group at it is possible to enter the water at Elly's Ford right at the parking lot. Either way, bring plenty of water.

The quarry will be smallmouth bass. Chest waders or waist high waders are useful given water depth. Wet wading will keep you a lot cooler since there is a hike of about a mile into the confluence.

You can almost always get away with a short fly rod, but when there is room to cast (and mend line) but a longer rod is a significant advantage. Mike Daly, who wrote the core for this updated article suggested a long rod in the six to eight weight range. There are two parts to the advice.

According to Mike:
 "I typically start with flies on hooks sized #6 or #8. I have a few favorite patterns on #2 and #4 hooks, which are heavily weighted. If you try to cast some of this big stuff on a light trout rod you won't get much distance, and the hook will likely end up in your ear.

The second factor contributing to

rod choice is the depth and flow of the water. If the water is up and the fish are deep, it can take a lot of weight to get your fly down to where the fish are. Most smallmouth fishing is done beneath the surface. This means a variety of sinking or floating/sinking lines can be useful. A full floater is easier to use if the water isn't too deep.

With a floating line, I usually start with a leader about the length of the rod. Low, clear water, and spooky fish might cause me to lengthen the leader a few feet. With sinking or sink tip lines I use a short leader, anywhere from three to six feet, usually just one section.

For smallmouth I would start with an eight pound tippet and go down to six if conditions were difficult. Take along tippet from 0X to 4X. Start with 3X if you are using something like a #6 or #8 fly. As to flies, I like the action of a wiggle tail. On my list of streamers is a Zonker, and then a Clouser Minnow. The latter is perhaps the classic modern smallmouth pattern. Take something to imitate a hellgrammite, either a realistic pattern or a black Woolly Bugger."

A damselfly imitation (ed: Zug bugs work well) is a great small fly to use in clear water when fish are spooky. Also take something to imitate a crayfish. Harry Murray has a number of effective smallmouth patterns in his book about smallmouth fishing.

Two final thoughts from Mike:
 "There are other species of fish in the river. Rock bass are one of my favorite panfish. When you find them, you can often pick up a fish on every cast. They have saved more than one fishing trip for me. They will hit smallmouth patterns (and just about anything else!). The second thing is how you retrieve

your streamers. Most of us just pitch them across and let them swing down. When the streamer gets directly below you (on the dangle) you retrieve it. To fish streamers well you must assume there are fish in the water and vary your retrieve until you catch them. Make sure you are near the bottom at least some of the time regardless of what technique you use."

See you on the 5th!

– George Paine

PS: I've also connected with large fish there using tan lead-eye leach patterns and white strymphs.

TRIP 2

Big Spring Creek

PENNSYLVANIA

When: July 26, 2014
Depart: 8 a.m.
Return: You decide
Meet: Vienna Fire House Parking Lot or Vienna Civic Center

SELF-GUIDED trip (we are still in need of a leader for MD and PA trips)

The second trip will be to Big Spring Creek, near Newville, PA. Light rods and hip boots will be fine. There is plenty of room for a long rod if you prefer them. You will be able to park near where you fish, so your comfort hiking in and out is not an issue. For years, the only part of this stream worth fishing was known as "the Ditch." It consisted of several hundred yards at the very top of the stream. The reason that the rest of the stream wasn't worth fishing was that a fish

hatchery polluted the stream with fine organic sediments (fish poop, if you will), which got down in the gravel on the bottom of the stream and decayed. It used up the oxygen in the interstitial gravel. Aquatic insects had a hard time surviving in this anoxic environment. Bugs that did live in Big Spring either could tolerate low oxygen levels in their immature stages, or they spent their entire life cycle above the bottom surface of the stream.

The good news is that the hatchery has been closed for several years, and there are reports that sections below the Ditch are once again holding fish. The Ditch is fished from shore and you could do it with duck shoes. In the old days, you could usually count on some smaller fish being active right where the culver empties into the head of the Ditch.

Fish Big Spring with the patterns that have worked in the past: midges and cress bugs. The midge patterns are simple pupal forms that are well illustrated in a book by Don Holbrook and Ed Koch titled, "Midge Magic" or a pattern with a black and white striped abdomen and a black thorax in sizes down to #28. As far as cress bugs go, none have proven demonstrably more effective than Ed Shenk's classic cress bug pattern. Just take some muskrat, guard hairs and all, and put it in a dubbing loop. Dub it on a Mustad 3906B hook (preferably from #12 to #20). Tie off and trim the fly flat on the top and bottom. Pick the sides out a bit with a dubbing needle.

A #16 is a good size to tie if you don't have time to tie a range of sizes.

– Based on a Mike Daly classic article

JULY FLY OF THE MONTH: DEMONSTRATED BY JOHN HADLEY

Foam Ant



This is a sure winner for Brookies in the Shenandoah Mountains and catches sunfish and other fish in lakes and streams as ants are an abundant food source just about everywhere. Also shown are several ant patterns that you can try.

Originator: Unknown for most patterns but I first saw the cork

plug/yellow calf tail ant tied by Harry Murray from Edinburg, VA.

Recipe

Hook: TMC 100 # 12 or 14

Thread: black 6/0

Wing Tip: Optional White Z-Lon, any color yarn, hackle tips, pink craft fur or Yellow Calf's Tail

Body: Rainy Ant Foam, 3/8" strip of black, brown or red foam, dubbing, or painted cork plugs

(drink a bottle of good wine and save the cork)

Legs: black, grizzly or brown hackle

Fishing Tip: dead float once then dead float with occasional twitching, best fished in summer and fall. Large cork body fly with a yellow calf tail wing can be used as an indicator for a small nymph.

Streamside

A prospective NVATU member: At a recent chapter meeting, I met an inquisitive gentleman who was interested in becoming active in our chapter's conservation efforts. He bluntly asked, "So, what kind of resource conservation work is the chapter doing?"

FishDr: Our chapter has had some success with a multitude of stream restoration projects. Probably our biggest success of late includes the thousands of man-hours volunteered by Roger Brown in his efforts to help restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat in the G R Thompson State Wildlife Management Area. While not directly hands-on conservation, other members like Kiki Galvin and Bill Errico are so active in community outreach and education, you can't help but think their efforts have had resounding impacts on the minds and thoughts of those caring enough to learn about trout and fly fishing. Also, over the past several years, George Paine has run the TIC or "Trout In the Classroom" outreach program for the NVATU chapter. This humble man speaks softly but carries lots of big tanks... fish tanks that is. Every year hundreds of enthusiastic Northern Virginia students learn about brook trout conservation while being



entertained daily by aquarium raised brookies swimming before their very eyes.

One of George's biggest success stories blossomed over this past academic year. James Madison High School in Vienna, VA (yes, that high school just a mile down the road from the fire house) had a group of six young ladies who not only raised fish but took the program to a new level. These young ladies of the SEA Club (Students for Environmental Action) also wanted to study the stream systems in an attempt to identify potential release locations for the fish they were

raising. In addition to working with George and other TU contacts, these young women coordinated their efforts with Soil Conservation Districts, Virginia DGIF, and the Marriott Corporation. Also, ESRI supplied GIS software support, gratis. Mind you, to my knowledge, no other school group in the country has been this proactive. While other school groups may use canned lesson plans for studying water quality and stream biota, I know of no other group who is actually "using" their data to effect where the fish they've raised in the classroom will be released. With

my assistance and under the tutelage of Madison Science Teacher, Dick Gongaware, these six young women--Nicole Audia, Joyce Cheng, Casey Grage, Jodie Lee, Marissa Marsh and club President, Trina White--blazed a new trail for the national TIC program. I'd venture to say they've reached outside the box and may now be the lead group, having set the example for future participating TIC groups. Oh, and by the way, our chapter leadership was recently informed the six young women will be featured in a full article in an upcoming issue of Trout. Such success by a group in their first year of operation is nothing less than awe inspiring.

So our chapter is quite active but I fear we don't give ourselves enough credit nor do we publicize our successes adequately. On the flip side, there's plenty of nearby trout restoration work out there just waiting for all of us to pitch in and make a difference. Think about it... get involved... make a difference.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask the Fish Doctor, please e-mail me at: fishdr@netzero.net

And you just might see an answer printed in an upcoming TroutLine.

—The Fish Doctor

NVATU's Schools Release 1200 Trout in the Classroom Brookies

This Spring, 15 schools in Northern Virginia operated 17 tanks and released nearly 1000 fry into Wildcat Hollow Run near Markham, and Passage Creek. Sizes ranged from 1 1/2 inches to 4 inches. Recent DGIF structural improvements to Wildcat Hollow will help their growth and survival. Gary Beard and Roger Brown, NVATU, as well as the state coordinator and Rapidan Chapter member, Chuck Hoysa worked hard and traveled a lot of miles to make this a success. Thank you all!

Members of our chapter took it upon themselves to sample Wildcat Hollow as reported by one of them below:

It took the teamwork of a former marine lead by an aging USAF Crash Rescue member to find their

way into the 8/10 mile fishable paradise.

The first step was to find the stream. On this warm windless spring morning the stream was easily heard from the parking lot. Once the overgrown trail was found it was all downhill from there. The trail was covered by all sorts of grasses, vines, and things that crawl in the dark.

Once we waded the stream we headed south to find age old stream created by God, once owned by Lord Fairfax, and restructured by the young and old for Virginia's Native Brook Trout.

At first I expected the Marine to put a knife in his mouth, charge thru the thickets guarding the stream and dive into the water to grab one of the young Brook Trout. But no, he

grabbed his magic brown box of fishing flies and pulled out a dry fly capable of landing a Brown Trout. The fly was attached to the leader on a battle worn 2wt rod. The brush was tactically parted. Once the pool was found he gracefully cast the fly upon the waters and let it drift to see what it found. In a matter of moments small brookies were aggressively attacking the lure. The fingerlings were hitting lures too big to fit in their mouths. The Marine fought his way downstream changing lures and getting hits until the stream flattened out, and the trail along its side disappeared into a swamp.

All you could find now was bear tracks in the mud.

We made our way back to the stream crossing and then headed

north to find more pools to test. And then... The unthinkable happened.

Jay finally match his lure to the size of the trout and caught a Brook Trout. The air temperature was 80, the humidity was over 90 percent, and the water temperature was 62.

He had caught a TIC Brook trout on a 2wt rod with photos to prove it. This wasn't the largest fish he caught, that day but it was the best one photographed and released for others to find. There are no photographs of the Marine's diving into the stream to catch fish. Or photographs of bear chasing fishermen down a trail.

Just two people researching a new trout stream and carefully selecting lures to match the hatch.

NEWSLETTER STAFF Editors: **George Paine**, (703) 860-0862, ppafish@hotmail.com and **Andy Manley**, (703) 758-7495, manleyam@ymail.com

Art Director: **Gary Visgaitis**, (570) 436-0839, tulogoguy@gmail.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: **Jay Lovering**, (703) 973-1024, jay.lovering@C21NM.com

Vice President: **Kiki Galvin**, (703) 899-6793, angla56@msn.com

Treasurer: **Marshall Osborne**, (703) 323-5393

Secretary: **George Paine**, (703) 860-0862, ppafish@hotmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Lowe, (703) 476-3978, terryalowe@cox.net

Suzanne Malone, (571) 641-9705, flyfishgrl@aol.com

COMMITTEES

Banquet: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Boy Scouts Program: **Bill Errico**, dadoopman@hotmail.com

Education (Fly Tying): **John Hadley**, (703) 933-6629, jhadley@alionscience.com

(Course Co-Chair): **Andy Manley**, (703) 984-9875, manleyam@ymail.com

(Fly Tying Classes): **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Financial Resources: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Fish With a Member: **Dan Kelly**, (703) 221-7292, danwkelly@aol.com

George Paine, (703) 860-0862, ppafish@hotmail.com

Four Mile Run: **John Hadley**, (703) 933-6629, jhadley@alionscience.com

Legal: **Victor Kernus**, (703) 690-3133, vkernus@cox.net

Legislative Issues: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Membership: **Bill Pierce**, oregonosu@gmail.com

Natural Resource Advisor: **Kirk Smith**

Outreach: **Suzanne Malone**, (703) 768-8175, flyfishgrl@aol.com

Program Chairs: **George Paine** and **Andy Manley**

Publicity: **Kiki Galvin**, (703) 899-6793, angla56@msn.com

Refreshments: **VACANT**, CONTACT ANY BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Logo Merchandise: **Anna Harris**, annamharris.wvu@gmail.com

Stream Projects: **Kirk Smith**

Trout in the Classroom Coordinator: **George Paine**, (703) 860-0862

Webmasters: **Otto Barnes** and **Taylor Blackwell**, nvatu-webmasters@googlegroups.com

Youth Programs: **Suzanne Malone**, (703) 768-8175, flyfishgrl@aol.com

Volunteer Hours Coordinator: **Hal Metcalf**, hmr2000@verizon.net



CONSERVATION CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted:

• **Chapter meetings:** Vienna Volunteer Fire Station, 7:30 p.m.

• **Board Meetings:** Century 21 Office, 6631A Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA, 7:30 p.m.

AUGUST

2: FWAM to Rappahannock (VA)

8: Chapter Meeting

14: Board Meeting

30: FWAM trip to Yellow Breeches (PA)

SEPTEMBER

4: Chapter Meeting

6: FWAM Rappahannock (VA)

11: Board Meeting

27: FWAM Patuxent (MD)

OCTOBER

2: Chapter Meeting

4: FWAM White Oak Canyon (VA)

9: Board Meeting

25: Morgan Run (MD)

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

August 7: Vicki Blazer, USGS fish pathologist

Sept. 4: John Odenkirk DGIF on Brook Trout Restoration and Garth Run

Rappahannock River Levels Safety

Friends of the Rappahannock has real-time data from the USGS linked to their website:

<http://riverfriends.org/TheRiver/RiverLevelsSafety/ta/bid/490/Default.aspx>

If you ever have doubts about safety, please call Bill Micks at the Virginia Outdoor Center (540-371-5085).

He is their recreation expert.



TU website:
www.tu.org

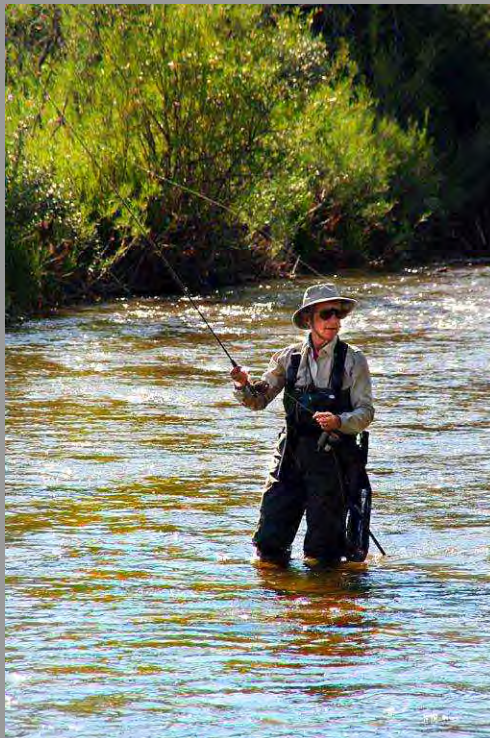
Virginia Council of TU website:
www.vctu.org



Recycled and Recyclable



MEMBER ALBUM



SUBMIT
YOUR
PHOTOS
TODAY



Pictures of fishing trips, conservation work, trout travel or other moments advancing TU.

E-mail photos from your smartphone or computer to one of our editors.

George Paine:

ppafish@hotmail.com

Andy Manley:

manleyam@ymail.com

We will scan prints upon request and return the originals to you.

Please include brief details of your photo to share the moment with chapter members.

See you here.

RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT: Casey Peltierin fly fishing Montana in 2010.